



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/460,944	12/14/1999	ERAN SITNIK	PHA23.898	3145

24737 7590 03/12/2004

PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS  
P.O. BOX 3001  
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER
----------

BUI, KIEU OANH T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2611

21

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/460,944

**Applicant(s)**

SITNIK, ERAN4

**Examiner**

KIEU-OANH T BUI

**Art Unit**

2611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments of Appeal Brief*

1. Applicant's arguments, see the Appeal Brief, filed 12/15/03, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-20 under Hwang and Levin have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Hiyoshi (JP10-248020-A) and Clark (U.S. Patent 5,089,885).

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

*(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.*

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiyoshi (JP10-248020-A) in view of Clark (US Patent 5,089,885).

Regarding claims 1 and 7, Hiyoshi discloses a television system (Figs. 1 & 2) comprising: a connection configured to be operatively coupled to a connection of an other television (Figs. 1 & 2 as parent's television is coupled to child's television for monitoring purpose, page 5/23, section 0003, and pages 6/23-7/23 sections 0006-0007); and

a processor configured to provide information to the other television requesting information identifying at least one of content and channel currently watched on the other

television and configured to automatically provide information identifying at least one of content and channel currently watched at said television in response to a request from the other television, i.e., the parent can request to monitor or view the content from any child's television with the parent television control means, and the request information including the content and channel currently watched at the child's television is displaying at the parent's television display (see Figs. 1 & 2/item 16 for parent television control means, and page 5/23, section 0003, and pages 6/23-7/23 sections 0006-0007).

Hiyoshi does not further identify exactly the requests as "query information" and "providing queried information in response to a query request" from the other television; however, the technique of using "a query request" from a user to request for "query information" from another user at the other television is taught by Clark as Clark teaches a monitoring system that a host using a video television system which monitoring a plurality of television users, and based on the user query requests, the queried information can be provided to the users from the host video television system (see Clark, col. 2/lines 45-59 for monitoring concept at remote locations among slave television users, Fig. 8 for queue addressed, and Figs. 18-19, col. 17/line 3 to col. 18/line 62 for details on monitoring process and query processes between the host and the users using a computer routine for requesting and providing queried information). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hiyoshi's television-to-television interactive system with Clark's teaching technique in using query information as means for communicating between televisions whenever a request for that queried information initiated by one of the interactive television users.

As for claims 2-3 and 8, in view of claim 1 above, the combination of Hiyoshi and Clark further teaches “wherein said connection is configured to provide said query and queried information to the other television”, i.e., using the link between the parent television and the child television (as illustrated in Hiyoshi, Figs. 1 & 2 using queried information as taught by Clark) and “wherein said processor is configured to receive query compliance status information identifying if said television is set up to share queried information with the other television”, i.e., the status information such as the content of whether is being watching on the child television is shared with the parent television (Hiyoshi, page 5/23, section 0003, and pages 6/23-7/23 sections 0006-0007) with the query information taught as described by Clark earlier.

As for claims 4 and 9, Clark further suggests “wherein said processor is configured to receive identifying information from a user prior to enabling the user to do at least one of set and change query compliance status information”, i.e., a validation process is performed before any set and change query compliance status information (Clark, Fig. 18, and col. 17/lines 3-20).

As for claims 5 and 10, the step of “wherein said processor is configured to provide any queried information to the other television that does not violate the query compliance status of the other television” is suggested by Clark as Clark suggests that the command session can be terminated if some query compliance status is not valid (Fig. 8, step 524 then to 526 if a subscriber is not a member; Figs. 9, 10, 19, 20, 22 as some examples for routines checking the validation of query requests between the host and the subscribers).

As for claims 6 and 11, Hiyoshi further discloses “wherein the connection is one of an in-home network connection”, i.e., the parent monitors the child’s television content within an in-home network (Figs. 1-2, and page 5/23, section 0003, and pages 6/23-7/23 sections 0006-0007), but not “an Internet connection”; however, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it is well-known in the art that the television system can be easily hooked up to an Internet connection using at least a modem or a cable modem or an internet interface installed within the television

system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hiyoshi and Clark's system with a well-known modem or an internet interface in order to connect to the Internet for communicating over the Internet at a remote locations, if preferred, the communication among users not only within a home network but also within a much broader network such as over the Internet.

Regarding claims 12-14 and 16-20, these method claims and system claims with same limitations are rejected for the reasons given with respect to the system claims of 1-11 as already disclosed above.

As for claim 15, Clark further suggests "wherein said identifying is performed by a mediator that is separate from each of said plurality of televisions", i.e., a remote monitoring station acts as a mediator between a host (a service provider) and a slave system such as television users (Fig. 24, and col. 20/lines 10-58).

### ***Conclusion***

**4. Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 872-9306 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

*Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).*

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krista Kieu-Oanh Bui whose telephone number is (703) 305-0095. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, with alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile, can be reached on (703) 305-4380.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Krista Bui  
Art Unit 2611  
March 5, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Bui', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**KRISTA BUI  
PATENT EXAMINER**